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## BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON COLONEL GENERAL ZHELTOV, NEW USSR DEFENSE MINISTRY POLITICAL CHIEF

Colonel General Zheltov's appointment as political chief of the Red Army /his correct position is head of the Main Political Administration, Ministry of Defense USSR/ indicates a change in Soviet policy, since Zheltov is the first officer with military and no political achievements to occupy this high post.

Zheltov's appointment to his present post is surprising since, contrary to his predecessors, he is neither a full member nor a candidate of the Central Committee of the CPSU, nor did he ever occupy any important party posts. However, he is a member of the CFSU (70-80 percent of all officers from the rank of major and up belong to the party).

As is frequently done when important changes in personnel take place, the Kremlin mentioned Zheltov's appointment merely incidentally. A Moscow radio announcement stated that the party organization of the Ministry of Defense USSR had consented to the removal of the "traitor" Beriya and the appointment of Zheltov as "head of the Political Administration of the Soviet Armed Forces."

During World War II, Zheltov was chief of staff of Marshal Tolbukhin's forces in the Soviet offensive in the Balkans and Central Europe.

Until 1950, he was the Soviet deputy commander in chief in Austria, in which capacity he attended many Allied Council meetings in Vienna. In accordance with Moscow's orders, Zheltov, a short plump man with little military bearing, was generally noncommittal and even contrary at these meetings. However, his "nyet" was always accompanied by a smile.

Three years ago, Zheltov, who had been second in command during the tenure of three Soviet high commissioners in Austria, suddenly disappeared from the political scene to reappear as first deputy minister of defense after Stalin's death and recently as political chief of the Red Army.

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This position is important since, under Stalin, the incumbent was not subordinate to the Minister of War and had immediate access to Politburo members and, if necessary, was even called for direct reporting to Stalin. The Political Administration was personally responsible to Stalin for the Communist loyalty of the Soviet officer corps.

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